tor obtaining the previous sanction of the President and the administrative approval of the Government of India, before its introduction in the State Legislature. The Bill is receiving the attention of the Government of India.

Cultivable land in the Melghat region

1880. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the exact size of gross cultivable land in the Melghat region of Amravati District of Maharashtra;

(b) what is the extent to which agriculture is developed on this land in the tribal area;

(c) whether Government are aware that more than 4000 children have died due to malnutrition and disease during the last three years in this area; and

(d) what special plans have this department got for developing agriculture efficiently in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The gross cultivable land in Melghat region is 76958 hectare.

(b) The tribals have traditionally been growing kodo, kutki, local jowar and local paddy varieties. By introducing modern technology of agriculture, tribals are growing improved varieties of soyabean, improved and hybrid jowar varieties, improved paddy varieties and other crops like cotton, gram, wheat etc. The tribals have also switched over to horticulture crops through EGS and the plantations in about 562 hectare had been undertaken for crops such as mango, orange, sweet lime and dry fruit plantations like Ber, Sitaphal etc. The tribals are adopting the modern technology in agriculture such as use of improved seeds, fertilisers, improved agricultural implements, drip/sprinklers, etc. to increase the level of per hectare production.

(c) During the rainy season in the last three years i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, a total of 1289 children below six years have died due to various causes such as fever, pneumonia, diarrhoea and dysentery, pre-maturity, tuberculosis, measles and other diseases.

(d) For all round development of tribals, the schemes such as distribution of hybrid and improved seeds, fertilisers, improved agricultural implements, conduct of demonstrations on different crops, arranging training classes for cultivators on modern technology and plantation of horticultural crops under EGS are being implemented to boost the production. Zilla Parishad also sanctioned Cess Fund Schemes for Welfare of tribals in this area.

In Melghat, bamboo, castor, coffee and mushroom cultivation has been undertaken to increase the economic status of tribals. Further, the Special Tribal Sub Plan Programme is also being implemented.

झींगा मछली उद्योग के संबंध में उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्णय को प्रभावहीन करने के लिए विधेयक

1881. श्री रामगोपाल यादवः
श्री ईश दत्त यादवः

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सरकार ने झींगा मछली उद्योग के संबंध में उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्णय को प्रभावहीन करने के लिए संसद के वर्तमान सत्र में कोई विधेयक लाने का निर्णय लिया है या कोई विधेयक ला रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है; और

(ग) सरकार के इस कदम/निर्णय का समाज के बुद्धिजीवियों, पर्यावरण के प्रति जागरूक लोगों तथा झींगा मछली उत्पादन से प्रभावित तटीय क्षेत्रों पर रहने वाले लोगों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा।